

interests of the people of Sudan are best served by focusing on the future and finding lasting peace and stability for the region.

On April 21, 2003, President Bush, in his Presidential Determination Under the Sudan Peace Act, certified that the government of Sudan and the People's Liberation Movement (SPLM/A) are negotiating in good faith. This historic event underscores the government of Sudan's commitment to peace and sets the stage for a negotiated peace agreement and the chance for dignity, prosperity and a better way of life for the people of Sudan, especially for Sudanese children.

Mr. Speaker, there will be those who will criticize the president's decision and who will focus on past history while giving little recognition to the positive events of the past year. The tragedy of such criticism is that it promotes a policy of divisiveness instead of unity which would enhance the prospects for peace and stability to the region. Even more troublesome is that such criticism shifts the focus from the real prospects for peace that now exist. While progress on the peace front has not been without set backs, positive developments have and continue to occur and should not be ignored.

Mr. Speaker, the release of special envoy John Danforth's April 2002 report "Outlook for Peace in Sudan" put in motion the events to date that have helped reestablish the present framework for peace. Following the Danforth report, an important first step towards peace was the signing of the Machakos Protocol, on July 20, 2002, resolving the major issues of self-determination for the south and the separation of state and religion. In September 2002, peace talks resumed under a negotiated ceasefire agreement and in October, 2002, the government of Sudan and the SPLM/A signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to allow unimpeded humanitarian access to all areas and to people in need, in accordance with the Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) agreement.

In addition, an addendum to the October 2002 MOU on cessation of hostilities was signed to add new mechanisms to strengthen implementation. Later in February, the human rights group Amnesty International was invited to visit Sudan for constructive dialogue on human rights issues.

On March 4, the mandate of the Civilian Protection Monitoring Team (CPMT) was extended for another year. Later in March, the ceasefire agreement was extended to June 30, 2003. Most recently, on May 1 the United Nations secured the opening of a new corridor in southern Sudan to enhance humanitarian access to the region.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my distinguished colleagues will view these developments as testimony to government of Sudan's commitment to achieving a lasting peace for the benefit of all our people.

While these and other events give hope for peace and a permanent end to hostilities, there are many of my colleagues who remain skeptical.

There remain roughly 90 days before the next "determination" under the Sudan Peace Act must be made. I would call on my colleagues to join me in supporting an NGO-sponsored fact finding delegation mission to Sudan and an accompanying report on the findings to assist in fully understanding the current situation in the Sudan with regard to

allegations of slavery, human rights abuses and religious persecution.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in Sudan is the product of nearly a half-century of conflict and political divisiveness. While we must never forget the past, the interests of the Sudanese people will be best served by focusing in the future and achieving lasting peace.

We look forward to the day when peace is at hand and when U.S. sanctions can be lifted and Sudan removed from the state terrorist sponsors list. Only then will the people of Sudan be able to receive the benefits of American ingenuity, technology and investment for their sustained growth and economic prosperity.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF RAÚL JULIÁ

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation to honor the achievements of the late Raúl Juliá by awarding his family the Congressional Gold Medal. I am pleased that 31 of my colleagues have joined me as original cosponsors of this important resolution.

Whether he played Edmund in Shakespeare's King Lear, or Valentín in The Kiss of the Spiderwoman, or Rafael the fix-it-man on Sesame Street, the passion and talent that Raúl Juliá exhibited in his work made him an inspiration for actors of all backgrounds. Raúl Juliá took risks in the projects he chose and the success of these risks was an inspiration of aspiring actors everywhere and especially in his native Puerto Rico.

Raúl Juliá often chose to forgo traditional plays and Hollywood blockbusters for such innovative roles as a Fellini-esque filmmaker in the Broadway musical Nine or as slain Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero in the movie Romero. Best known for his roles as Gomez Addams in The Addams Family and as Chico Mendez in The Burning Season, he was nominated for four Tony awards in 10 years, and posthumously received the Emmy Award, Golden Globe Award and the Screen Actors' Guild award.

In addition to his talents on the stage and screen, Raúl Juliá was an activist on both local and global levels. He was a spokesperson for the Hunger Project, a nonprofit organization committed to the eradication of world hunger, and was also involved in La Familia, a New York City outreach program for Latino families in need. Raúl Juliá's immense success did not diminish the immense generosity of his spirit and dedication to helping actors from Puerto Rico and elsewhere. His long-standing association with the New York Public Theater and the New York Shakespeare Festival opened doors to nontraditional parts for Hispanic actors. He co-founded the Latino Playwrights Reading Workshops and was instrumental in the creation of the Puerto Rico Traveling Theater, which showcases bilingual plays and Hispanic playwrights and actors, while bringing theater to those who cannot ordinarily afford it.

In 1994, thirty years after he made his Broadway debut in Spanish playwright Calderón de la Barca's Life is a Dream, Raúl

Juliá's life and career were cut short by a fatal stroke. He was given a state funeral in Puerto Rico, where thousands of people attended as a testimony to his many lasting achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in finally recognizing and honoring Raúl Juliá's great contributions to the Latino community and to the performing by cosponsoring this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I hosted a townhall forum with my constituents to discuss the Republicans' prescription drug plan and how it will harm America's seniors.

As a result, I missed rollcall votes 398–400. Had I been present, I would have voted: No. 398—"yea" No. 399—"yea" and No. 400—"yea."

IN MEMORY OF JUNE KEEFE OWENS

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, the occasion upon which I rise tonight is not one I looked forward to. The duties of our office can at times overwhelm us, but the privileges of this floor are also humbling. And it is with humility that I have the honor of submitting these words in memory of a dear lady, the mother of a good friend, for the RECORD.

Recently, the Governor of Colorado lost his mother, June Keefe Owens, on July 16 following a tragic stroke. While she can never be replaced, the warmth of her smile will never be lost.

Mrs. Owens was born in Fargo, ND, met her husband in Minneapolis, was married in New Jersey, raised her family in Texas, and spent her golden years in Colorado. She raised five wonderful children—Mike, Mary K, Bill, Betsy, and Kelly—and eleven grandchildren—Brad, Jennifer, Matthew, Patrick, Michael, Monica, Julie, Mark, Brett, Ellen, and Laura.

She was an energetic volunteer, who spent her time in Colorado volunteering for the Cancer League, Porter Hospital, and the Cherry Creek Republican Women's Association. And while I never sat down with her for bridge, I understand she played a mean hand.

Looking back, I can remember many engaging conversations with Mrs. Owens, but it was rare when the two of us spoke alone. Everywhere she went, June attracted a crowd with her pleasant smile, warm words, and genuine kindness. I remember well her words of hope and encouragement during my campaign last year. In politics, we see all too often when a person's kindness is but fleeting. People say "good luck" or "I'm pulling for you," and you just know it's mostly out of obligation to say something. Her kindness was much deeper—in her soul, she really cared about the lives of those around her, and had the ability to touch and warm your heart as too few are able to do.